

Human Services Council Meeting  
March 3, 2016, 7:30 PM  
MEETING MINUTES

MEMBER NAME		MEMBER NAME	
Kevin H. Bell, Chair	<i>Present</i>	Michele Menapace	<i>Present</i>
Col. Marion (Barney) Barnwell	<i>Excused</i>	Stephanie Mensh	<i>Excused</i>
Steven Bloom	<i>Present</i>	Audrey Morton	<i>Present</i>
Jeff Dannick	<i>Present</i>	Dr. Gerald (Jerry) Poje	<i>Excused</i>
Jack Dobbyn	<i>Absent</i>	Dr. Sergio Rimola	<i>Present</i>
Robert Faherty	<i>Excused</i>	Rev. Alexis Vaughan Kassim	<i>Absent</i>
Rev. Dr. Jerrold Foltz	<i>Present</i>	Adrienne Walters	<i>Present</i>
William Kogler	<i>Excused</i>	Henry Wulf	<i>Excused</i>
<b>Staff:</b>			
Michelle Gregory, Department of Neighborhood and Community Services (NCS)			<i>Present</i>
Patricia Harrison, Deputy County Executive			<i>Present</i>
Gail Ledford, Department of Administration for Human Services (DAHS)			<i>Present</i>
Ron McDevitt, Department of Administration for Human Services (DAHS)			<i>Present</i>
Tracy Steffek, Department of Neighborhood and Community Services (NCS)			<i>Present</i>

Guests and County Staff: Michelle Wilhelm, Jess Werder, Carita Parks, Kevin Filbey, Liz Henry, Lisa Tatum, Sarah White, Gary Ambrose, Karla Bruce, Michael Lane, Daryl Washington, Brenda Gardiner, Dana Thompson, Suzanne Lane, Dean Klein, Tom Fleetwood, Bob Bermingham, Ina Fernandez, Tisha Deeghan, Rosalyn Foroobar, Lee Ann Pender, Nannette Bowler, Chris Leonard, George Becerra, and members from the Alliance for Human Services

**7:45 p.m. – Welcome and Overview –** Chairman Kevin Bell opened the meeting welcoming new Sully District Representative, Audrey Morton. Audrey shared her background in public administration and education. She had previously taught at the university level and held various positions with the Department of Health and Human Services, the State Department, and the House of Representatives. She also served for many years (22) with the Fairfax Civil Service Commission.

**Human Services Presentations –** Steve Bloom, Budget Committee Chair, welcomed agency directors and members from the Alliance for Human Services to the meeting. Members from the Alliance for Human Services attended the first part of the Council meeting, which included a presentation from Deputy County Executive, Pat Harrison. Steve noted that last year human services directors shared information about their agencies in preparation for the Council's annual budget presentation to the Board of Supervisors. Due to its success, directors were once again invited to share their agencies' trends and challenges.

Deputy County Executive, Pat Harrison stated that all human services agencies have presented their Lines of Business (LOB) to the Board of Supervisors emphasizing common trends and challenges as they try to meet the increasing needs of the community with constrained resources. Pat mentioned how economic changes have also caused many additional needs within the county and responding to the complexity of these needs requires coordination. Pat praised agencies for demonstrating in various ways their innovation, efficiencies in practices, ability to use data to inform decisions, and effectiveness by using evidence-based practices and national and state models to inform their work. However, she stressed that health and human services can no longer function as a silo-ed system

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and a shift must be made to move towards an integrated system to better serve clients and address the needs of the community.

Chris Leonard, Neighborhood and Community Services Director, highlighted several community indicators impacting agency work noting academic achievement disparities, increased eligibility for free and reduced lunch, increased youth racial and ethnic diversity, and growth in the older adult population. Chris also shared new funding initiatives in the FY2017 advertised budget for turf field replacement and expanding Opportunity Neighborhood. Chris provided examples on how his department continues to seek efficiencies by partnering with other agencies.

Dean Klein, Department Director for the Office to Prevent and End Homelessness, described how his agency is moving forward using a data driven approach and working collaboratively with businesses, the faith community, non-profit organizations, and human services agencies to achieve goals. Dean highlighted a few current efforts noting the lack of affordable housing that continues to negatively impact the homeless population. Dean stressed that many shelter properties are aging and renovations will be necessary in the future.

Tom Fleetwood, Department Director for Housing and Community Development, shared how sustainability is key for individuals and families to achieve success and that many of the housing trends also indirectly impact other parts of the human services system. Tom noted the high cost of land and development within the county is affecting the ability to identify land for housing stock and finance new housing. Tom also stressed that many of the county's housing properties are aging and will also require renovations in the future.

Tisha Deeghan, Director of the Community Services Board, highlighted funding initiatives included in the FY2017 advertised budget for Intellectual Disability Graduates and the second Mobile Crisis Unit approved at FY2015 carryover. Upcoming challenges will include work on Diversion First and decriminalizing mental illness, an integrated health system, the opiate heroin epidemic, and waiver reform and implementation for individuals with intellectual developmental disabilities.

Bob Bermingham, Director of Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court, spoke about their efforts to redesign and redeploy staff based on the decrease in juvenile crime and the increase in domestic violence and custody/visitation cases. Bob highlighted that his agency has been working to be more proactive with prevention and early intervention by implementing several evidence-based tools and partnering closely with judges. Bob noted challenges with changing caseloads and utilization rates, an increase in court ordered mental health treatment, changing community demographics, transportation needs, racial and ethnic disparities, and the need for succession planning as staff retire.

Rosalyn Foroobar, the Health Department's Deputy Director, noted increases in the frequency and complexity of infectious diseases, the rising burden of chronic diseases coupled with the shifting healthcare landscape, and the evolving and increasing role of the agency with emergency preparedness and response efforts. Ros stressed the need to transform and integrate primary, oral, and behavioral health care systems; the need for health care interface; the need to strengthen capacity; and the need for increased epidemiology resources.

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Nannette Bowler, Department of Family Services Director, stated that her agency has experienced increases in Adult Protective Services investigations, public assistance caseloads, domestic violence victims and offender services, and Child Protective Services calls. Nannette explained that as budget reductions have occurred over the last several years, the agency has made several changes to meet demands including repurposing positions, decreasing software licenses, consolidating processes and work units, and centralizing office supplies. Nannette stressed a need to hire more facilitators for the Parenting Education Program and expand Neighborhood Networks.

Gail Ledford, Director of the Department for the Administration for Human Services, shared that her agency has experienced increased collaboration resulting in efficient operations across the entire system, efforts to contain costs and maintain quality services, increased use in technologies and accountability practices. Gail noted security difficulties in maintaining co-located sites, limited integration of data systems, and responding to restructured state and federal funding sources as challenges. The agency will be seeking opportunities to enhance the infrastructure, improve methods to measure and evaluate system outcomes, pursue new and best practice approaches, and shape the system as the system places greater reliance on the agency.

Kevin Bell closed the meeting by thanking agency directors for their presentations and input underscoring the importance of investing into human services.

**Adjournment** – The next two full membership meetings are the annual Community Public Dialogues. These are scheduled for Tuesday, March 8, 2016, at the Jewish Community Center of Northern Virginia and Thursday, March 10, 2016, at Providence Community Center.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:15p.m.